

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action mailed June 21, 2004 (Paper No. 16) has been carefully considered. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments claims 1 – 27 and 47 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 28 – 32, 34, 36, 39, 43 – 45, and 48 - 52 have been amended.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 32, 33, 38, 40, 45, 46, 49, 51, 54, and 55 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

II. Response to 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections – Claims 26, 27, 34, 36, 37, 43, and 44

A. Statement of the Rejection

Claims 26, 27, 34, 36, 37, 43, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,577,204 to Brewer (*Brewer*).

B. Discussion of the Rejections

Applicant has canceled claims 26 and 27. Thus, the rejection to the extent of claims 26 and 27 is rendered moot.

Amended independent claim 32 is in independent form and includes the limitations of canceled claims 26 and 27. Amended claims 34, 36, 43, and 44 depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 32. Previously presented claim 37 depends from claim 36. The Office Action indicates that the subject matter of Applicant's amended independent claim 32 is allowable. Accordingly, claims 34, 36, 37, 43, and 44 are allowable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Response to 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections – Claims 28 – 31, 39, 41, and 42

A. Statement of the Rejection

Claims 28 – 31, 39, 41, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Brewer* in view of U.S. Patent 5,721,819 to Galles *et al.* (*Galles*).

B. Discussion of the Rejections

Amended independent claim 32 is in independent form and includes the limitations of canceled claims 26 and 27. Amended claims 28 – 31, 39, 41, and 42 depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 32. The Office Action indicates that the subject matter of Applicant's amended independent claim 32 is allowable. Accordingly, claims 28 – 31, 39, 41, and 42 are allowable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. Response to 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections – Claims 35, 47, 48, 50, 52, and 53

A. Statement of the Rejection

Claims 35, 47, 48, 50, 52, and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Brewer* in view of *Galles* and "Data and Computer Communications" to Stallings (*Stallings*).

B. Discussion of the Rejections

Amended independent claim 32 is in independent form and includes the limitations of canceled claims 26 and 27. Claim 35 depends from claim 34, which depends from claim 32. The Office Action indicates that the subject matter of Applicant's amended independent claim 32 is allowable. Thus, claim 35 is allowable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 47 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection of claim 47 has been rendered moot.

Amended independent claim 49 is in independent form and includes the limitations of canceled claim 47. Amended dependent claims 48, 50, 52, and 53 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 49. The Office Action indicates that the subject matter of Applicant's amended independent claim 49 is allowable. Thus, claims 48, 50, 52, and 53 are allowable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 28 – 46 and 48 - 55 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

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